Visit of delegation to Israel

4418. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that agricultural delegation under the leadership of Maharashtra Chief Minister, Shri Sharad Pawar visited Israel;

(b) whether the tour was on behalf of Government; and

(c) to which places and countries the members of delegation visited and the purpose of their visit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (c) An Indian delegation led by Shri Sharad Pawar, Chief Minister of Maharashtra and comprising of the following members was sponsored by the Government of India to visit Israel from 26 May, 1993:

(i) Shri Sajjan Kumar,
Minister of Cooperation,
Government of Punjab, Chandigarh.

(ii) Dr. M. S. Gill,
Secretary (A&C),
Deptt. of Agriculture and Cooperation, New Delhi.

(iii) Shri Mohan Kanda,
Secretary (Agriculture),
Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.

(iv) Shri Vinay Bansal,
Secretary to the Chief Minister,
Maharashtra Govt. of Maharashtra,
Bombay.

The purpose of the visit was to participate in the Agri-Tech Exhibition organised by the Govt. of Israel. The delegation also visited the Ben Gurion University at Beer Sheva, Israel and the Jacob Blaustein International Centre for Desert Research, Sede, Boker, Israel.

Drought prone areas

4419. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) which are the different drought prone areas in the country with state-wise details;

(b) whether Government made any study to ascertain the cause of these drought prone areas causing loss of agriculture every year;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what action Government have taken to prevent the recurrence in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (c) On the basis of studies conducted mainly on rainfall and irrigation patterns of different areas of the country, the following areas have been identified as drought

State	No. of districts	No. of Blocks
Andhra Pradesh	8	69
Bihar	7	54
Gujarat	10	52
Haryana	5	35
Himachal Pradesh	2	2
Jammu and Kashmir	4	23
Karnataka	11	71
Madhya Pardesh	6	49
Maharashtra	12	74
Orissa	4	39
Rajasthan	20	114
Tamil Nadu	7	43
Uttar Pradesh	17	87
West Bengal	3	34
	116	746

(d) Two programmes viz., the Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) are being implemented